PREFACE

This study is the result of work undertaken while the investigator was a member of the University of Michigan 1951 Expedition to Iraq and Iran. He most first express his gratitude to the director of the expedition, Professor George G. Cameron, and to the Rockefeller Foundation for subsequent financial assistance that has made this inquiry possible. The investigator lived in the town of Ramadiya, a Kurdish administrative and commercial center in northern Iraq, for a period of seven weeks in the summer of 1951, a large part of this time as a guest in the home of a Kurdish merchant. He was accompanied by an interpreter, a former employee of the intelligence service of the British Army, and the facility with which much of this information was gathered was to attributed to the ability and impartiality of this person. The investigator is well aware of the shortcomings which may arise from the use of an interpreter and the brevity of a visit. In the first regard, however, the experience of inquiries and the corroboration of recorded statements by the townspeople convinced that a considerable degree of accuracy in this matter was being attained. The freedoms of the town's schools offered additional corroborative and amplifications. There is still, of course, the possibility of error, but the investigator feels that mistakes such be few in number, are only because of the ability of his

[illegible] and communicate, but because he found [illegible] which prompt strange or excessive with relation to his creation of other Islamic cultures. The second failing is more annoying and the deficits in information arising from this difficulty have been indicated from time to time in the text. Nevertheless, it is felt that the limited size of this undertaking, discussed in the initial and concluding chapters, have been achieved. The investigator was fortunate in having a plurality of informants, men of various ages and callings, with whom narratives could be evaluated. Their versions were volunteered, and the only compensation asked was a similar exposition, by the investigator, of life in the United States. The information was recorded in many places in the town, the house, the shops, the gardens, the club, and the mosque, and supplemented by a photographic record.

The investigator must make the deep appreciation for the aid afforded him by the [illegible] of Kawasaka, Said [illegible] Beg, and Dr. Ahmad al-Amin of the Iraq Museum who facilitated his relationship with the local government. He is also obliged to H. E. Najib al-Asali, Director-General of Antiquities, under whose auspices the expedition conducted the work. A great debt is acknowledged to Professors Leslie A. White, Marcia Tilton, and Arthur E. R. Boak of the University of Michigan for their guidance in the preparation of the manuscript and the Lawiata expedition of the previous. Both Professors George G. Cameron and Douglas E.

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My thanks are more of all due to my kind host, Baba Ali Shaikh Mahmud, who offered me assistance of every kind during my field-work and graciously extended the more classical Kurdish hospitality. Khalid Said, a young Kurdish artist, was invaluable as interpreter and assistant; I am also obliged to Mr. Fuad, the School Inspector in Sulaimani, for recommending Khalid Said to me, as well as for several illuminating conversations. Sayyid Sabri Shakir, now of the Mosul Museum, kindly endeavored to teach me some of the fundamentals of Kurdish language and culture; Linda and Robert Braidwood, through their experience and knowledge of the area were able to help me and assist me in the problems, and also kindly lent me some necessary equipment. Finally, the spontaneous friendliness and hospitality that I received from everyone I met in Iraq, from the